



Title I News

November 2003

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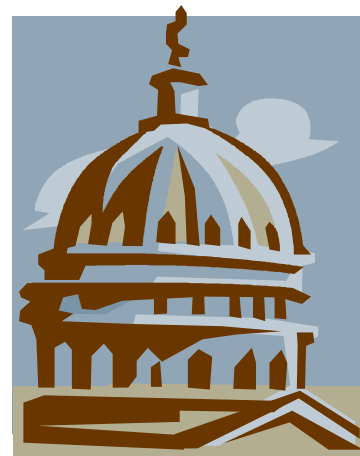
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Undersecretary of Education, Dr. Eugene Hickok, to Visit ND

Education Undersecretary Eugene Hickok has accepted an invitation to visit North Dakota, tour a public school, and discuss the implementation of the federal *No Child Left Behind* education policy with North Dakota educators. His visit is being co-sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and North Dakota's Congressional delegation.

Per special request from the Undersecretary, he will meet privately with a representative cross-section of North Dakota educators to discuss issues pertaining to the implementation of *No Child Left Behind* which are unique to North Dakota. Anyone who did not receive a special invitation to the meeting and who wishes to provide input may submit written comments to the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction by November 10, 2003. These comments will be given to Dr. Hickok to review.

Dr. Hickok's visit to North Dakota provides a unique opportunity for educators to discuss key issues on *No Child Left Behind* that are site specific to North Dakota schools and students.



North Dakota Reading Month

February is North Dakota's Reading Month! "Exploring with Lewis and Clark" is our theme for 2004. The theme was selected to correspond with the Lewis and Clark celebration for next year.

The State Title I office contracts with North Dakota teachers to create the Reading Month packet each year. This year's Reading Month organizers are Sandy Sand, Judith Konerza, and Colette Gierszewski of the Grand Forks Public School District.

The Reading Month packet contains a wealth of ideas to use in your classrooms. The organizers also developed several units. These units will be great to implement in the classroom.



The State Title I office is planning to mail the Reading Month packets to schools in early December. All schools in the state will receive one packet to share and distribute to all staff members. The Reading Month packet, "Exploring with Lewis and Clark", will also be available on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us.

If anyone has any questions regarding the Reading Month packets, please contact Nita Wirtz, Title I Program Administrator, at nwirtz@state.nd.us or by phone at (701) 328-1876.

Adequate Yearly Progress Update

Report Cards

The Department has been working to prepare annual report cards for parents and the public on the academic achievement of students at the state, district, and school building level. The report cards for the 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 school years are tentatively scheduled to be available on the Department's website within the next several weeks.

AYP Reports

The AYP reports for the 2002-2003 state assessment were officially released on September 17, 2003 and are available on the Department's website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/dpi/reports/profile/index.shtm.

At the time of the official release, there were still some schools that had not reviewed their data or had not submitted revised data. Since the release, the Department has worked with several schools to ensure that the assessment results are accurate. Therefore, the statewide number of schools that did not make adequate yearly progress on the 2002-2003 state assessment has changed from 71 to 47 public schools.

Districts are required to ensure that all schools send home a copy of the AYP report, along with correspondence explaining the school's AYP status, to all parents of students in that building. Sample letters that schools may use to help explain the reports to parents are available on the Title I website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/targeted/general/reauthoriz/index.shtm. Look under the heading "Testing and Adequate Yearly Progress." The Department will be doing random monitoring of this requirement within the upcoming weeks.

State Assessment Contract

North Dakota's contract with our current state assessment vendor expires this year. The Department has generated a Request for Proposals (RFP) and disseminated it nationwide. A panel made up of state and local educators will review all proposals submitted. The Department anticipates having a final decision on our future state assessment vendor by mid January 2004.

Listed below is a timeline indicating the key dates during the selection process.

October 15, 2003	An RFP was disseminated nationwide regarding the contract for the North Dakota State Assessment.
October 31, 2003	Letters of intent to submit a bid were due to the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.
December 1, 2003	Official bid from interested testing vendors is due to the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.
January 2004	Final decision is made on the North Dakota state assessment vendor.



ATTENTION Title I Teachers

As we all know, the K-12 math and reading credentials will no longer be in existence as of July 1, 2006. At that time, the State Title I office will delete all K-12 credentials and reissue new credentials. To make this transition less burdensome, we would like to start making some of these changes as soon as possible.

So, at this time, we would like to hear from all Title I teachers who currently hold K-12 credentials but are only teaching in an elementary setting. We encourage these teachers to contact Sandy Aune-Peterson by e-mail at smpeterson@state.nd.us, by telephone at (701) 328-2170 or by fax at (701) 328-4770. Please include your current credentialing information and state whether or not it would be allowable to change your current K-12 math and reading credentials to K-6 credentials in both reading and math.

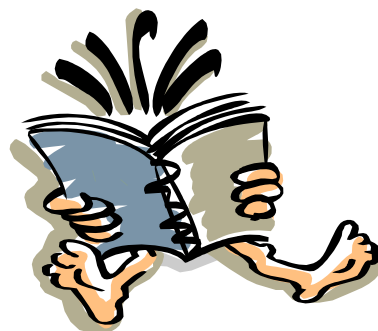
Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

If you have further questions regarding this change, please feel free to contact Sandy using the information above.

Draft Versions of Grade Level Standards

This past year, McREL and area teachers have been revisiting North Dakota's content standards in English language arts and mathematics. It was their mission to revise the grade 4, 8, and 12 standards written in 1996 and 1999 (respectively) to generate grade specific standards and benchmarks for grades K-12.

Drafts of the grade level standards are available online on the Department's website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/standard/content.shtm. Scroll to the purple bar that reads "2003 Drafts" to find the grade specific standards.



National Title I Conference - *Closing the Gap One Step at a Time*

The 2004 National Title I Conference is entitled *Closing the Gap One Step at a Time*. This conference will be held in New Orleans, LA on February 7-10, 2004.

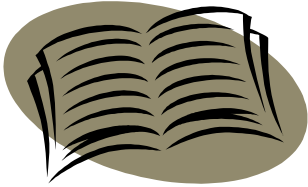


The conference will focus on issues prevalent in the *No Child Left Behind* legislation as well as provide a variety of breakout sessions and keynote speakers. This conference would be great for anyone representing Title I at the home, classroom, school or district level. The registration deadline is December 31, 2003 and a limited number of registrations will be accepted, so register early!

For more information, please refer to the National Association of State Title I Directors website at www.aplusevents.com/T04/index.html.

Reading First Update

Reading First is an ambitious national initiative to ensure that all students know how to read well by the end of third grade. The program includes professional development for teachers using SBRR (scientifically-based reading research) programs, ongoing valid and reliable screening, diagnostic and classroom-based instructional assessments, and a classroom-focused effort where students are systematically and explicitly taught five key early reading skills: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary development, and reading comprehension strategies.



There are currently eight school buildings in North Dakota with Reading First grants. The second round of competition for the Reading First grants is well under way. The second round of Reading First grant applications were due on October 30, 2003. The State Reading First office received 25 applications from 14 school districts and anticipates funding 12 school buildings.

Each grant application will be read and scored by three grant reviewers. Reading First grant reviewers will be reading and scoring the grant applications throughout the month of November and into December.

If all goes as planned, the applicants for Reading First grants will be informed as to whether or not they will be receiving funding by the end of December. Funding will begin for the selected grant applicants on January 1, 2004.

The dates for the third round of competition are unknown at this time. Whether or not a spring competition will be held, depends on funding that is available after this fall round of competitions.

For more information on Reading First check out the Reading First website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/reading/index.shtm.

Director's Corner

As I write this report, I can't even believe it is already November. I don't know where the time goes, but it flies by way too fast. Staff in the State Title I office are working diligently to try and get all of the Consolidated Applications reviewed and approved. Once this process is complete, we can finish processing the applications for reallocated and program improvement funds. Your patience is appreciated.

There are a number of projects in the works that State Title I staff will be working on in the upcoming months. Below, I've highlighted some of these key projects. We will let school personnel know as soon as these resources become available.

- A monitoring schedule is being compiled for the 2003-2004 school year.
 - Staff will be randomly monitoring schools for compliance with the "Parents' Right to Know" clause and the dissemination requirements pertaining to the Adequate Yearly Progress reports within the next two months!
 - Guidance and sample forms are being updated on the requirement to inform home school families of their right to participate in the federal Title programs.
 - Guidance is being developed for schools operating a Title I ESL program.
 - Guidance is being developed for schools operating a Title I preschool program.
 - Guidance is being developed for schools operating a Title I secondary school program.
 - Additional Title I "Fast Fact" sheets are being created.
 - A process is being developed to recognize distinguished Title I schools under *No Child Left Behind*. Additional grant funds will be available to schools who meet the "distinguished Title I schools" criteria.
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Teacher Quality Update

- The North Dakota Department of Public Instruction submitted our final state plan under *No Child Left Behind* on September 1, 2003. The plan included North Dakota's definition of "highly qualified" and provided baseline data on the number of courses currently being taught by "highly qualified" teachers, the number of Title I aides who currently meet the *No Child Left Behind* requirements, and data on LEP students and persistently dangerous schools. North Dakota received written approval on our prior three state plan submissions. We have been anxiously awaiting feedback from the September 1 submission. In particular, we are waiting to see if our definition of "highly qualified" will be approved. Our definition includes composite majors for science and social studies and a unique proposal for defining "highly qualified" at the middle/junior high level. Staff in the USDE have reviewed our state plan because we have been asked to submit additional information regarding Title I aide/para and LEP student information. No reference has been made to our definition of "highly qualified" teachers.
- As indicated in prior issues of the Title I News, the Department of Public Instruction has requested an attorney general's opinion as to specifically what the Education Standards and Practices Board's role is and what the Department of Public Instruction's role is in defining "highly qualified" and to provide an interpretation of the language in HB 1489 regarding licensure and accreditation.

To date, we have not received a response from the attorney general's office.

- As you all know NCLB requires all educators teaching in "core academics subjects" to have a major in all areas where they are currently teaching. An option available to teachers is to complete the portfolio based assessment. A draft copy of the portfolio rubric is currently available on the ESPB website. You can access the instructions for completing the rubric, reference the points needed to meet highly qualified status for each academic subject and get additional information by logging onto www.state.nd.us/espb.
- The State Title I office is frequently asked questions regarding the teacher quality provision in the NCLB Act. In the Title I Newsletter each month, we will have a question and answer section addressing frequently asked questions pertaining to the teacher quality provision and provide an answer. Listed below are two questions that have been asked by several personnel.

Q: In regard to the middle school/junior high requirements, can existing personnel who have been teaching a core subject for multiple years choose to use their years of experience and the portfolio option in lieu of needing to have 16 semester hours in that content area?

A: Yes.

Q: If a teacher has an elementary degree and wants to teach at the secondary level (or vice versa), would they need to student teach again at the secondary level in addition to obtaining major equivalency status?

A: Yes, however, the student teaching requirements are less in this instance. A teacher could fulfill the responsibility during a summer school program.

Math Month 2004

During the Spring Regional Workshops, Title I personnel were surveyed to see if they would be interested in creating a Math Month for the state of North Dakota. With an 82% response of yes, the State Title I office decided to move forward with this project.

Kathy Fettig, Darlene Bondley, Pam Rettig, and Junella Feickert, all of the Bismarck Public School District, are on the design team that has been contracted to develop the Math Month packet. It is our plan to disseminate the packet to all schools the first part of February 2004. This will allow schools enough time to share the information with all of their teachers before April 2004, which has been designated as Math Month.

Should you have further questions about Math Month, please feel free to contact Ann Ellefson, Title I Program Administrator, at (701) 328-2292 or aelfelson@state.nd.us.

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November 16-22, 2003 is Homeless Awareness Week in North Dakota. Many agencies and organizations across the state conduct special activities to increase public awareness of homelessness in North Dakota during this time.

Many of these resources can be found online on the Title I – McKinney Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth website at www.dpi.state.nd.us/title1/homeless/index.shtm.

You can also get further information on how to serve homeless children and youth by contacting Ann Ellefson, Education of Homeless Children and Youth Program Administrator, at (701) 328-2292 or by e-mail at aellefson@state.nd.us.



National Coalition of Title I/Chapter I Parents Conference

For more information, please visit www.nctic1p.org.

For more information, please visit www.aplusevents.com/T04/index.html.

For more information, please visit
www.sendit.nodak.edu/ndctm/spring2004.information.html

For more information, please visit <http://ndreadon.utma.com/intro.htm>.

For more information, please visit www.reading.org/2004.